

HB 1758 -- Blue Alert System

Sponsor: Rucker

This bill establishes the Blue Alert System to assist in the identification, location, and apprehension of an individual suspected of killing or seriously wounding any local, state, or federal law enforcement officer. The Department of Public Safety must develop regions to provide the system and coordinate local law enforcement agencies and public broadcasters to effectively provide the system. The system will include all state agencies capable of providing urgent and timely information to the public together with broadcasters and other private entities that volunteer to participate in the dissemination of urgent public information. Any person who knowingly makes a false report that triggers an alert will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

The Blue Alert System Oversight Committee is established within the department to develop criteria and procedures for the system. The 10-member committee will consist of two representatives each of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association and Missouri Police Chiefs Association, and one representative each of the small market radio broadcasters, large market radio broadcasters, and television broadcasters to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The department director and two representatives of the State Highway Patrol will also serve on the committee.